

sincere hope that the Camden National Bank will continue its success in south Alabama for another 100 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARL L. WHATLEY, JR., 2006 ALABAMA STATE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carl Whatley, Jr., of Montgomery, Alabama. The United States Small Business Administration recently recognized Mr. Whatley, Founder and CEO of ProEthic Pharmaceuticals, Inc., as the Alabama State Small Business Person of the Year during Small Business Week 2006.

Mr. Whatley began his career in the industry by working as a salesman for major pharmaceutical firms. In 2001, after nineteen years of working for other companies, he founded Pro Ethic Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The business was created to focus on selling specialty pharmaceuticals that larger companies considered insignificant. Mr. Whatley's company has grown from five to 113 employees, expanding from one to 15 products that it now acquires, develops and markets in 31 states. ProEthic Pharmaceuticals has seen revenues rise from \$1.2 million in 2002 to \$25 million in 2005.

National Small Business Week recognizes outstanding small business owners for their personal achievements and contributions to our nation's economy. Mr. Whatley is a dedicated individual whose hard work warrants congratulations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BARNEY WEHR

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barney Wehr for his long and distinguished nursing career.

Barney has been a nurse for the past 35 years. Over the course of her career she has worked in the Operating Room, Post Anesthesia Care Unit and as a Labor and Delivery nurse. Barney has been working at Boulder City Hospital as an Endoscopy nurse for over 10 years.

During her tenure at Boulder City she greatly contributed to the start up and development of the GI Department. Barney also belongs to the Endoscopy RN Society and uses this professional affiliation to help keep the department current on the latest technology. She is admired by both her peers and patients, and regarded as knowledgeable and experienced. Barney is recognized within the Boulder City Community as one of the best nurses in the community. She is a true asset to Boulder City Hospital and the nursing profession.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Barney Wehr for her professional expertise and significant contributions to the art of nursing. I wish her the best in her future efforts.

ON AVIAN FLU

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I made the attached remarks regarding the Avian Flu on May 11, 2006.

You're on your own.

This has been the credo for the Administration's approach to health care and it summarizes their approach to Avian Flu. The Implementation Plan gives a little guidance to state and local governments and businesses and then wishes them luck.

First, there is the leadership vacuum. The plan calls for HHS to coordinate the medical response but calls for Homeland Security to coordinate federal operations and resources. A bipartisan report out of the Senate, released in April, found that the Department has lagged in fixing the problems that plagued its atrocious response to Hurricane Katrina. It found that major structural reforms were necessary and that little has changed in the Department so far. So we can expect Homeland Security to adopt a similar motto to the one they adopted last Summer: you're on your own.

What's more is that the plan has been called the mother of all unfunded mandates. While 7.1 billion dollars for avian flu preparedness is a step in the right direction, it is simply not enough. Dr. Irwin Redlener, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, called the budget "completely unrealistic." A big part of the reason it is insufficient is that it has to make up for years of steady erosion of the public health infrastructure due to lack of funding. In fact, Dr. Redlener points out the need for 5 billion dollars just for "staffs, equipment and supplies, and general resiliency." Yet the vast majority of the Administration's funding is going toward the anti-viral and vaccine stockpile.

This plan, therefore, gives us inadequate leadership and inadequate funding, which leaves the clear impression that we truly will be on our own in a pandemic. And a crisis is precisely the time we need to look out for each other the most.

However, we can be assured that everyone is not left to their own devices.

On November 4, 2005 during a House Government Reform Committee hearing on Avian Flu Preparedness, HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt responded to my questioning by saying that he would not be issuing a compulsory license for the anti-viral drug, Tamiflu. He also declared that he was in negotiations with Roche, manufacturer of Tamiflu, over the cost of the drug being purchased for the national stockpile. On one hand, Secretary Leavitt has a Congressional mandate to stockpile enough Tamiflu for 25% of the nation. On the other hand, he withdrew the threat of compulsory licensing, even if Roche tries to price gouge. In so doing, Leavitt undercut his own negotiating power and effectively surrendered control of price to Roche.

On November 10, six days after the hearing, the New York Times reported that Roche announced what they would be charging developed countries for Tamiflu: 15 Euros, or about 19 dollars for a course of treatment. Wondering how the price negotiations between

HHS and Roche went, my office recently asked HHS what they were paying for Tamiflu for the stockpile. The asking price of 15 Euros, or 19 dollars. Even with the bulk purchasing power of 810 million pills, HHS did not bother to get a better deal than the asking price.

Let's you get the impression that this price is fair, allow me to point out that Roche did not sink a dime into research on the drug. They simply license it from its inventor, Gilead Sciences. That means there is no need to recoup research costs. Furthermore, we know it can be sold for a profit for much less. Cipla, a generics manufacturer in India, for example, is selling Tamiflu for only 12 dollars. That is 36 percent less than what the Federal Government is paying. If we paid Cipla's price instead of Roche's, we would save over a half a billion dollars. I bet local health agencies and hospitals could save a lot of lives with that kind of money. Think of what we could do with a half billion dollars—we could reduce the deficit, put teachers in classrooms, invest in renewable energy, provide health care to some of the uninsured, brace ourselves for the effects of climate change.

Those that stand to gain from inflated prices for pandemic pharmaceuticals are doing well. Roche's sales for the first quarter of 2006 are up 22 percent to 7.7 billion dollars. Gilead Sciences, the company that originally developed Tamiflu and continues to receive royalties on its sales, outperformed RBC Capital Markets estimate of 350 million dollars in Tamiflu Sales by 163 million dollars.

In essence, we are telling state and local governments that there's not enough money to fund things like medical personnel and equipment while we're giving away bags of money to the already incredibly profitable pharmaceutical industry. In other words, you're on your own, unless you're big Pharma.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES D. LEMMOND FOR 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE WILKES-BARRE LAW AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Pennsylvania Sen. Charles Lemmond, who is observing 50 years of membership in the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

A lifelong resident of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Senator Lemmond received a bachelor's degree from Harvard University, a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Wilkes University.

Prior to his election to the Senate of Pennsylvania in 1985, he served as an assistant and first assistant district attorney in Luzerne County and as a judge of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Long active in community and civic organizations, Senator Lemmond is a past potentate of Irem Temple and a 33rd degree Mason, a trustee of the Wyoming Conference of the United Methodist Church, a life member of the board of trustees of Wyoming Seminary and a

member of the advisory boards of Penn State's Wilkes-Barre campus and the Salvation Army.

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association was located in the county Court House located on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square from 1859 to 1909 when it was moved to the second floor of the current county Court House at 200 N. River Street in Wilkes-Barre.

The Law Library contains over 20,000 volumes of law books, reports and journals. The Law Library also operates the Luzerne Legal Register, the law journal of Luzerne County and the official reporter of the decisions of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County. A lawyer referral service is also operated out of the law library for people who need a lawyer but do not know whom to contact.

The Law and Library Association also operates a charitable foundation that supports charitable and humanitarian projects throughout Luzerne County. It is intended to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the legal system in Luzerne County, ensure access to legal information and representation to all members of the Luzerne County community and foster good relations between members of the Bar, Judiciary and the public.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Senator Lemmond for a half century of membership in the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association. His devoted service and the service of other distinguished legal practitioners have enabled the Association to grow and thrive and be a continuous source of support to its members.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297, TAX INCREASE PREVENTION AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out on our nation's dire fiscal situation. How can it be that at a time of war, when we are cutting \$735 million from the defense health care budget and facing the largest deficits in our Nation's history and an \$8.3 trillion national debt, this Congress decides to prioritize million dollar tax breaks to Big Oil Company CEOs instead?

Because of the tax cut legislation passed out of the House, the former CEO of Exxon Mobil, Lee Raymond, will take home an extra \$2.5 million dollars in dividend income each year on top of his \$400 million retirement package and the \$144,000 he made each day when he was Exxon Mobil's CEO. Tell me how that is possibly fair to the middle class worker who is paying \$3 a gallon to fill up his car, or to the student who has to find a third job in order to pay off her student loans. The truth is it isn't fair, Mr. Speaker, and Americans everywhere know it.

The average middle class family could not afford to buy one meal for their family with the money they will save from this tax cut, but Lee Raymond gets \$2.5 million?

I urge my colleagues to take a serious look at our nation's fiscal priorities as we continue down this road of fiscal irresponsibility. We

owe it to our children and grandchildren, to leave them a legacy of economic stability, not one of debts and deficits. We should show them that we care about their future by not squandering away more money we don't have to pay for irresponsible tax cuts benefiting only Big Oil Company CEOs like Lee Raymond.

It's past time to focus on the true priorities of the American people.

A TRIBUTE TO THE EAST NEW YORK FAMILY ACADEMY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the East New York Family Academy Girls' Varsity Basketball Team. They are champions of the 2006 Girls Varsity Division VIII-B of the Public School Athletic League of New York City. Under the direction of Head Coach Earl S. Mitchell, Assistant Coach Eddie Barron, and Managers Rayon Clarke and Shakeema Mattocks, the 2006 "Lady Eagles" excelled to an undefeated regular season record of 18 wins and no losses, while losing only one out of five games during the playoff season. Additionally, the East New York Family Academy Lady Eagles currently holds a record of two consecutive undefeated regular seasons.

I want to especially recognize the work of Athletic Director, John Cortese, and Principal Sheila Richards, who have worked hard to infuse excellence, respect and accountability not only in athletic programs, but in academic departments as well. At East New York Family Academy, it is truly a family affair. Coaches Mitchell and Barron have received a tremendous amount of inspiration from Tony Yard, the Head Coach of the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team and former member of the Panamanian Olympic Team, and from Donald Vanteerpool, the Head Coach of the Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Team. Coach Mitchell is deeply appreciative of these coaches for teaching his team to respect the fundamentals of the game and for always being there when needed.

Although athletics are important, academics have not taken a backseat. In an era when sports achievements have sometimes replaced excellence in English, math, science and other academic areas, the coaches have demanded a high level of academic performance from team members. As an example, two players rank in the Top 10 of their senior class and four members of the starting five have received college acceptance offers.

Long after the last shot has been taken and the last ball dribbled, the members of the 2006 "Lady Eagles": Naledi Anderson, Alana Arthurs, Veldina Chaunce, Karanja Craig, Tiffany Dugue, Ayana James, Shada Jordon, Dalkeitha Layne, Shamika McIntosh, Krista Mitchell, Tashanya Morris, and Tara Powell will benefit from the leadership, love and guidance given to them by their coaches, teachers and administrators at East New York Family Academy.

I am certain that in the days to come, the members of the 2006 "Lady Eagles" will build upon their experiences in basketball and their

days at the East New York Family Academy and there will be more achievements to come.

Mr. Speaker, in this spirit, I believe that the accomplishments of the 2006 "Lady Eagles," and the work of their coaches, teachers and administrators, are truly worthy of our recognition here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESSIE MAE MAXWELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Essie Mae Maxwell, of Coosa County, Alabama. Ms. Maxwell turned 103 years old on April 20th, which she celebrated with family and friends in her Kellyton home.

From 1903 until today, Ms. Maxwell has lived a full life that has seen many transitions in our country's history. She remembers growing up as a witness to the introduction of cars, computers, and laundry machines. She enjoys reading the Bible and newspaper, both without her glasses, on a daily basis. A mother of eleven, she has inspired her family from her oldest child to her youngest great-great grandchild.

I am proud to recognize Ms. Maxwell today in the House, and congratulate her on her 103rd birthday. I wish her the best and many more enjoyable times with her family and friends.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYDIA MOORE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lydia Moore for her 38 years of service to the Boulder City Hospital.

Lydia Moore came to Boulder City Hospital on November 2, 1968 as a Certified Nursing Assistant. While working she developed a program for unit clerks. Desiring to further her education she enrolled in Clark County Community College and received her Licensed Practical Nursing degree and later returned to Clark County Community College receiving a Registered Nursing degree. She has held several supervisory positions including night Charge Nurse, House Supervisor, Medical Surgical Unit Manager, and is currently the Social Services Manager.

Lydia received the Clark County March of Dimes Nurse of the Year in 1992 and is Vice President of Lend a Hand. She continues to be an advocate for the prevention of domestic violence and is active in the Clark County immunization program for children.

Lydia has served her community continuously throughout her life and Boulder City Hospital has been privileged to benefit from her knowledge and service for the past 38 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lydia Moore for her years of service to the Boulder City Hospital and the Boulder City community.